



July 20, 2010

Mayor Gayle McLaughlin
Vice Mayor Jeff Ritterman
Councilmember Nathaniel Bates
Councilmember Tom Butt
Councilmember Ludmyrna Lopez
Councilmember Jim Rogers
Councilmember Maria Viramontes

City of Richmond Civic Center Campus
440 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond, CA 94804

**SUBJECT: COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM NO. L-1 - NOVEMBER 2010 BALLOT
ADVISORY MEASURE ON PROPOSED CASINO-RESORT**

Dear Mayor McLaughlin and Members of the City Council:

We understand that at the City Council meeting this evening, the City Council will decide whether to place an advisory measure on the ballot to seek the opinion of the people of Richmond on the proposed casino at Pt. Molate. We ask that the perspective of your neighbor, the City of San Pablo, also be considered when the Richmond City Council determines the fate of Pt. Molate.

The City of San Pablo recognizes that the City of Richmond has the right and authority to approve whatever projects it deems necessary to be in the best interests of its residents which are in compliance with the law. We also understand that there are a multitude of potential projects other than the Guidiville casino which have been or can be proposed for the Pt. Molate site, all of which would provide jobs to the people of Richmond, and significant revenue to the City of Richmond.

Of all those projects, only the Guidiville casino will have the direct and unavoidable effect of essentially bankrupting the City of San Pablo, since two-third's of the City's general fund operating revenue comes from Casino San Pablo, which, because it is legally confined to its present modest operation, has no chance of competing against, or co-existing with a Las Vegas-Style mega-casino at Pt. Molate.

As you know, the recession-driven drastic reduction to assessed value in our community threatens to significantly undermine our ability to provide ongoing services to our residents. If this problem is exacerbated in San Pablo as vital City revenue from Casino San Pablo decreases due to the development of a Pt. Molate casino, police and other crucial social services will inevitably be cut drastically, and crime and other social problems will increase as a result, in both San Pablo and Richmond. We believe a strong and healthy San Pablo Police Department contributes significantly to crime fighting in Richmond, and that a Pt.. Molate casino will undermine that contribution.

In addition to its negative impact upon law enforcement, approval of the Pt. Molate casino project will have a direct and unavoidable adverse effect on the ability of the City of San Pablo to continue its exceptional efforts toward making West Contra Costa County a better place to live and work. It could well mean the end of our City's financial support for the West Contra Costs Unified School District; the Contra Costa Library; the Community Foundation; the Adopt-A-Family Program; the Youth Services Program; free community-building public events; and Public Works activities such as park and street maintenance, and creek and storm-drain maintenance. San Pablo and Richmond have both benefitted immeasurably from these and other significant community partnerships throughout the years. Approval of the Pt. Molate casino would set both cities back in these efforts, resulting in a decrease in the quality of life in both cities.

We ask that Richmond choose an option for Pt. Molate that protects the public safety and well-being of both the residents of San Pablo, and the residents of Richmond. Moreover, we urge Richmond to support another project for Pt. Molate that will continue to support our good community relations, foster job creation and regional partnerships, and create long-lasting, good governance between our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Genoveva Garcia Calloway
Mayor

cc: City Council
City Manager